

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0184

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF JULY 17 BILATERAL
MEETING BETWEEN UK DEP REP AND SOVIET DEL OFF

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORT OF 17 JULY BILATERAL
MEETING BETWEEN UK DEP REP (GOODALL) AND SOVIET
DEL OFF (SHUSTOV) WHICH WAS CIRCULATED AT 19
JULY AHG MEETING.
BEGIN TEXT:

2. ONE OR TWO POINTS IN A CONVERSATION I HAD LAST
NIGHT WITH M. SHUSTOV MAY BE WORTH RECORDING.

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3. M. SHUSTOV TOLD ME THAT, IN ADDITION TO HIS

MBFR RESPONSIBILITIES, HE RETAINED A CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR UN AFFAIRS (INCLUDING THE IAEA) AND ALSO HAD REGULAR CUNSLTATIONS WITH THOSE CONCERNED WITH CSCE. I SAID THAT, IN THAT CASE, HE WAS WELL PLACED TO TELL ME WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD NOW, IN THEIR OWN MINDS AT LEAST, ESTABLISHED SOME SORT OF LINK BETWEEN CSCE AND MBFR. SPECIFICALLY, WAS IT TRUE THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE LATTER UNTIL THERE WAS SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR THE FORMER? M. SHUSTOV SAID THAT A NUMBER OF WESTERN SOURCES SEEMED TO BELIEVE THIS, BUT IT WAS QUITE UNTRUE. HE WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT HE COULD "DENY IT CATEGORICALLY". THE TWO NEGOTIATIONS WERE QUITE SEPARATE AND THE PACE OF THE ONE DID NOT AND SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE PACE OF THE OTHER.

4. I SAID THAT PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT O M. KHESTOV'S LAST PLENARY STATEMENT, OUR AFFAIRS HERE SEEMED TO HAVE REACHED SOMETHING OF AN IMPASSE. M. SHUSTOV AGREED, ADDING "WE HAVE NOT YET STARTED TO NEGOTIATE HERE". THE TROUBLE WAS THAT THERE WERE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. ASKED WHETHER HE HAD ANY IDEAS ON HOW THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES MIGHT BE BRIDGED OTHER THAN BY THE FAMOUS "FIRST STEP", M. SHUSTOV SAID THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING TO WHICH THOUGHT WOULD NOW HAVE TO BE GIVEN.

5. I THEN TOOK M. SHUSTOV TO TASK FOR HAVING INCLUDED IN M. KHESTOV'S STATEMENT A REFERENCE TO THE WESTERN "ALL PARTICIPANTS"OFFER, WHICH HAD BEEN MADE ONLY IN INFORMAL SESSION. THIS SEEMED TO BE CONTRARY TO THE RULES OF THE GAME AS WE UNDERSTOOD THEM. M. SHUSTOV SAID THAT THEY HAD GIVEN CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THIS. THEY HAD NOTED THAT WE HAD REFERRED IN PLENARY TO PROPOSALS WE HAD MADE IN INFORMAL SESSIONS AND THOUGHT THEREFORE THAT THEY COULD DO THE SAME. I POINTED OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH WE HAD USED PLENARY STATEMENTS TO CONFIRM IN A MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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FORMAL WAY OFFERS WHICH WE OURSELVES HAD MADE IN INFORMAL SESSIONS, WE HAD BEEN VERY CAREFUL NEVER TO REFER IN PLENARY STATEMENTS TO OFFERS MADE BY THE EAST. INDEED EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAD SHOWN CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY WHEN WE REFERRED TO SUCH OFFERS EVEN AT SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL SESSIONS. M. SHUSTOV, LOOKING A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, CONCEDED THAT HE COULD NOT REMEMBER ANY OCCASION

ON WHICH WESTERN SPOKESMEN HAD REFERRED IN PLENARY
TO OFFERS WHICH THE EAST HAD MADE ONLY IN INFORMAL
SESSION. BUT HE SAID THAT THEY SHARED OUR VIEW
THAT PLENARIES COULD APPROPRIATELY BE USED FOR PUTTING
ON FORMAL RECORD STATEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE IN
THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. IT WAS PRECISELY FOR THIS
REASON THAT THEY HAD DECIDED TO PUT THEIR REJECTION
OF OUR "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER INTO A PLENARY
STATEMENT: THEY WANTED US TO HAVE IT ON FORMAL
RECORD AND TO UNDERSTAND IT CLEARLY. I ASKED WHETHER
THIS MEANT THAT WE WERE INTENDED TO TAKE THEIR
REJECTION AS BOTH DEFINITIVE AND FINAL. M. SHUSTOV
REPLIED THAT IT REPRESENTED THEIR CAREFULLY CONSIDERED
VIEW AT THIS TIME. IT WAS HOWEVER POSSIBLE THAT,
FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS DURING THE RECESS, THEY MIGHT
WISH TO OFFER ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS
OF WHY THEY REGARDED OUR OFFER AS UNSATISFACTORY.
END TEXT.RESOR

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